
The Free Negro in Virginia. 1619 to 1865 by John H. Russell

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to bear upon its interpretation the results of the recent study of social psychology. Professor Mecklin finds in the negro certain traits which differentiate him psychologically from the white man, such as a uniformity and monotony of mental characteristics, a suggestibility which manifests itself particularly in his religion, a tendency to think in images, etc. It is these differences which make it so difficult for him to assimilate a complex civilization molded by the experiences of generations of men whose race-history is so entirely different from his own. This assimilation, difficult at best, is retarded by the increasing vigor with which the color line is being drawn, and by the race-prejudice, which the author, Professor Royce to the contrary, contends does exist and defines as an "instinctive antipathy due to physical differences and the more serious friction arising from divergent group traits—often accentuated by economic competition." The needs of the negro are found to be "education and industrial efficiency" upon which to base the "creation of serious group ideals." After a consideration of the legal status of the negro as defined by the Supreme Court, the author reaches the rather unsatisfactory conclusion that the only way to deal with the negro problem is "to accept the situation as it is, with all the complications arising from segregation and race antipathy and to insist upon a stern, even-handed justice based upon equality of consideration."

The Free Negro in Virginia. 1619 to 1865. By JOHN H. RUSSELL.
Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political
Science. 1913. Vol. 31. No. 3. Pp. 194.

This monograph dealing with the free negro in Virginia takes up a phase of the study of the negro which is apt to be overlooked. Its importance may be illustrated by the statement that "at the beginning of the Civil War there were in Virginia nearly sixty thousand free negroes." The origin of this class of negroes is popularly but erroneously conceived to be wholly by emancipation from slavery. Of course manumission furnished the largest part of the free colored population but it is interesting to note that the negroes who were first brought into Virginia were not slaves in the sense of being bound for life, but rather indentured servants who might fulfill their contracted term of service and become free as white indentured servants did. Slavery, not being an institution brought over from England, developed gradually from servitude. A discussion of the legal status of the

free negro shows that while important restrictions were placed upon his liberty of action and discriminations were made against him, especially in regard to penalties for crime, in the main both his person and property received the protection of the law. The free negro served an important economic need especially among the non-slave holding urban population, so that when the attempt was made to force the free negroes out of the state, it had to be abandoned because of the impossibility of getting along without their services.

The study is carefully worked out and throws an interesting light on the history of the negro race as a whole.

The Color Line in Ohio. By FRANK U. QUILLIN. 1913. Ann Arbor: George Wahr. Pp. 178.

This monograph in the University of Michigan historical studies takes up the free negro in a typical northern state, Ohio. The first part of the book deals with the historical development of the position of the negro from the time of the constitutional convention in 1803 down to 1912, and the second part discusses present-day conditions.

In the historical development, we find that Virginia on the one hand was anxious to get rid of her free negroes by passing drastic laws compelling them to leave the state and by purchasing land and attempting to settle them in Ohio; while Ohio on the other hand was just as unwilling to receive this influx of free negroes and passed as drastic laws forbidding their entrance into the state. The whole study goes to show that the free negro received little more consideration in a free than in a slave state. Even as late as the passage of the fifteenth amendment, Ohio fell into line and voted for the amendment only after it was certain that it would be carried anyway.

The second part of the book takes up the position of the negro in the typical large cities of Cincinnati, Dayton, Springfield, Columbus, and Cleveland, and a most unusual small town, Syracuse, which has never permitted a negro to remain in it over night. The author's conclusions are that, with the exception of Cleveland, in which conditions are unusually favorable to the negro, there exists throughout the state, a strong prejudice against the negro which reacts very disadvantageously upon his social and economic position. This prejudice has always been strong but it has been increasing in recent years, due to the undesirable negro immigration from the South, and has been accentuated